

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 17-20, 22-26, 28-37, 39, 40, and 42-46 are currently pending. Claims 17, 22, 24, 26, 28, 29, 39, and 44 have been amended; Claims 45 and 46 have been added; and Claims 21, 27, 38, and 41 have been canceled without prejudice by the present amendment. No new matter has been added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 17-21, 39-41, 43, and 44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gomez (U.S. Patent 6,330,221 B1, hereinafter “the ‘221 patent”) in view of Rao et al. (U.S. Patent 6,674,756 B1, hereinafter “the ‘756 patent”); Claims 22-26, 28-38, and 42 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the ‘221 patent in view of the ‘756 patent and Moore (U.S. Patent 5,475,846, hereinafter “the ‘846 patent”).

Claim 17 has been amended to incorporate selected features of Claim 38. Accordingly, Claim 38 has been canceled. Claim 39 has been amended to incorporate selected features of Claim 41. Accordingly, Claim 41 has been canceled. Claims 17, 22, 24, 26, 28, 29, 39, and 44 have been amended to address cosmetic matters of form. No new matter has been added.

Amended Claim 17 is directed to a redundant routing system, including, *inter alia*, a first routing unit configured to manage input and output data; a second routing unit configured to manage input and output data; a network interface configured to connect the first and second routing units; and a standby bus interface configured to connect the first and second routing units to each other. Further, Claim 17 has been amended to clarify that when the first routing unit detects a failure in itself, the first routing unit is configured to deactivate

itself to cease managing the input and output data and to allow the second routing unit to start managing the input and output data.

Turning to the applied art, the '756 patent is directed to a network switch that includes slots that each accommodate a single interface module, referred to as a "forwarding module" (FM). As disclosed by the '756 patent, at a given time, only one FM is active, and this FM is designated as the primary chassis manager for the entire system. Similarly, the '756 patent states that only one FM is the secondary chassis manager for the entire system and that the primary and secondary chassis managers communicate via hello messages and via chassis status messages. The '756 patent further discloses that a failure of a chassis manager is detected by way of a timeout of the hello messages. The '756 patent states that if the secondary chassis manager detects a failure of the primary chassis manager, the secondary chassis manager resets the primary chassis manager and becomes the new primary chassis manager. Similarly, the '756 patent discloses that if the primary chassis manager detects a failure of the secondary chassis manager, the primary chassis manager resets the secondary chassis manager and selects a new FM to act as the secondary chassis manager.

The outstanding Office Action asserts that the '756 patent discloses that when said first routing unit detects a failure in itself, the first routing unit is configured to deactivate itself to cease managing said input and output data and to allow second routing unit to start managing said input and output data. However, the '756 patent is directed to a chassis manager detecting the failure of *another* chassis manager. The '756 application is silent regarding a chassis manager detecting a failure of *itself*. Therefore, the '756 patent does not teach or suggest that when a first routing unit detects a failure in itself, the first routing unit is configured to deactivate itself to cease managing input and output data and to allow a second routing unit to start managing the input and output data, as recited in amended Claim 17.

The '221 patent is directed toward a Fault Tolerant Dial Router (hereinafter, "FTDR") that can be automatically reconfigured around faults while other independently operating subsystems in the FTDR continue to process calls. Applicants submit that the '221 patent is silent regarding that when a first routing unit detects a failure in itself, the first routing unit is configured to deactivate itself to cease managing input and output data and to allow a second routing unit to start managing the input and output data, as recited in amended Claim 17. Indeed, the outstanding Office Action does not assert otherwise.

The '846 patent is directed to an apparatus for processing Personal Memory Card International Association ("PCMCIA") interrupt requests. Applicants submit that the '846 patent is silent regarding that when a first routing unit detects a failure in itself, the first routing unit is configured to deactivate itself to cease managing input and output data and to allow a second routing unit to start managing the input and output data, as recited in amended Claim 17. Indeed, the outstanding Office Action does not assert otherwise.

Furthermore, because all of the '756 patent, the '221 patent, and the '846 patent fail to teach or suggest that when a first routing unit detects a failure in itself, the first routing unit is configured to deactivate itself to cease managing input and output data and to allow a second routing unit to start managing the input and output data, the references do not, either alone or in proper combination, teach or suggest all of the limitations of amended Claim 17. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 17 (and all associated dependent claims) patentably distinguish over any proper combination of the '756 patent, the '221 patent, and the '846 patent.

Moreover, because the '756 patent, the '221 patent, and the '846 patent fail to teach or suggest that when a first routing unit detects a failure in itself, the first routing unit is configured to deactivate itself to cease managing input and output data and to allow a second

routing unit to start managing the input and output data, Applicants respectfully submit that the applied references also fail to teach or suggest that when a first routing means detects a failure in itself, the first routing means deactivates itself to cease managing input and output data, and allows a second routing means to start managing the input and output data, as recited in amended Claim 39. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 39 (and all associated dependent claims) patentably distinguishes over any proper combination of the applied references.

Regarding the rejection of Claim 43, the outstanding Office Action asserts that at least one configuration file includes at least one time limit between two messages. The outstanding Office Action further asserts that this disclosure can be found in the '756 patent in the status registers. However, the '756 patent discloses only that the status registers obtain information regarding the chassis status, a status of a last command issued, and a status of previous and current messages in the message queues. The '756 patent is silent regarding a status register obtaining a *time limit* between two messages. Therefore, the '756 patent does not teach or suggest that at least one configuration file includes at least one time limit between two messages, as recited in Claim 43.

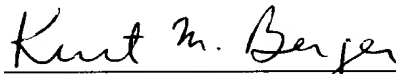
Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that the '221 patent and the '846 patent, either alone or in proper combination, fail to cure the above-noted deficiencies of the '756 patent. Moreover, because the '756 patent fails to teach or suggest that at least one configuration file includes at least one time limit between two messages, Applicants respectfully submit that the '756 patent also fails to teach or suggest that each configuration means includes at least one time limit between two messages, as recited in Claim 44. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 43 and 44 patentably distinguish over any proper combination of the applied references.

New Claims 45 and 46 have been added to set forth the invention in a varying scope, and Applicants respectfully submit the new claims are supported at least by the specification at the full paragraph on page 7. No new matter has been added. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that dependent Claims 45 and 46 are allowable for the same reasons as discussed above with regard to Claim 17, from which Claims 45 and 46 depend.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Philippe J.C. Signore, Ph.D.
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 43,922

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413-2220
(OSMMN 08/07)

Kurt M. Berger, Ph.D.
Registration No. 51,461